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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 7-21 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 13, and 17 are independent claims. Claim 6 was previously canceled.

In the Final Office Action, claims 13-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,208,643 to Dieterich et al. ("Dieterich") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,703,877 to Nuber et al. ("Nuber"). Claims 1-5, 7-8 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dieterich in view of Nuber in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,898,695 to Fujii et al. ("Fujii"). Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dieterich in view of Nuber in further view of Fujii and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,542,518 to Miyazawa et al. ("Miyazawa").

It is respectfully submitted that the rejected claims are allowable over Dieterich, Nuber, Fujii and Miyazawa for at least the following reasons.

In response to the rejection of claim 1, over the combination of Dieterich and Nuber and Fujii, the combination of citations does not suggest "calculating a number of counts of the local System Counter between the packet arrival time of the first information signal packet of the sequence and the information signal packet that includes the Program Clock Reference and

subtracting the number of counts from the Program Clock Reference to derive a System Time Counter start value for the sequence" (emphases added) as recited in claim 1.

In response to the rejection of claim 2, over the combination of Dieterich and Nuber and Fujii, the combination of citations does not suggest "storing the System Time Counter start value as an attribute of the stored received information signal packets with the appended Packet Arrival Time Stamps" (emphases added) as recited in claim 2.

In response to the rejection of claim 3, over the combination of Dieterich and Nuber and Fujii, the combination does not suggest "retrieving a System Time Counter start value from the storage medium, ...; and

setting the System Time Counter with the retrieved System Time Counter start value" (emphases added) as recited in claim 3.

In response to the rejection of claim 4, over the combination of Dieterich and Nuber and Fujii, claim 4 is dependent on claim 3 and is allowable for at least the same reasons.

In response to the rejection of claim 5, over the combination of Dieterich and Nuber and Fujii, the combination does not suggest, "subtracting a System Time Counter start value of the second sequence from a value of the Presentation Timestamp of a first information signal packet of the second sequence; and

setting the local System Time Counter to the value of the System Time Counter start value, the System Time Counter start value is determined by calculating a number of counts of the local System Time Clock Counter between the packet arrival time of the first information signal packet of the sequence and the information signal packet that includes the Program Clock Reference and subtracting the number of counts from the Program Clock Reference

to derive a the System Time Counter start value." (emphases added) as recited in claim 5.

In response to the rejection of claim 7, over the combination of Dieterich and Nuber and Fujii, the combination does not suggest, "a processor for calculating a number of counts of the local System Time Clock Counter between the packet arrival time of the first information signal packet of the sequence and the information signal packet that includes the Program Clock Reference and subtracting the number of counts from the Program Clock Reference to derive a System Time Counter start value for the sequence." (emphases added) as recited in claim 7.

In response to the rejection of claim 8, over the combination of Dieterich and Nuber and Fujii, the combination does not suggest, "a time stamp generator comprising a Packet Arrival Time counter derived from a local System Time Counter to indicate a packet arrival time of each of the information signal packets, wherein the local System Time Counter for a sequence is initially set with the System Time Counter start value read from the storage device." (emphases added) as recited in claim 8.

In response to the rejection of claim 9, over the combination of Dieterich and Nuber and Fujii, and Miyazawa, the combination does not suggest, "at each specific entry point, storing the mark point and one or more of the information entities selected from at least one of Program Clock Reference, Presentation Time Stamp information, Decoding Time Stamp information, and Packet Identification mapping information." (emphases added) as recited in claim 9.

In response to the rejection of claim 10, over the combination of Dieterich and Nuber and Fujii, and Miyazawa, claim 10 is dependent on claim 9 and is allowable for at least the same reasons.

In response to the rejection of claim 11, over the combination of Dieterich and Nuber and Fujii, claim 11 is dependent on claim 1 and is allowable for at least the same reasons.

In response to the rejection of claim 12, over the combination of Dieterich and Nuber and Fujii, claim 12 is dependent on claim 3 and is allowable for at least the same reasons.

In response to the rejection of claim 13, over the combination of Dieterich and Nuber, the combination does not suggest, "wherein the timestamp generator is configured to provide a System Time Counter start value based on the program clock reference value and a time difference between the clock referencing information signal packet and an initial information signal packet, and the combiner is configured to associate the System Time Counter start value with the sequence of information packets, and wherein a number of counts of the local System Time Counter is calculated between the packet arrival time of the first information signal packet of the sequence and the information signal packet that includes the Program Clock Reference; and the number of counts is subtracted from the Program Clock Reference to derive a System Time Counter start value for a sequence." (emphases added) as recited in claim 13.

In response to the rejection of claims 14-20, over the combination of Dieterich and Nuber, claims 14-20 are dependent on claim 13 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim

13.

In response to the rejection of claims 21, over the combination of Dieterich and Nuber, claim 21 is dependent on claim 5 and is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 5.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 13 and 17 are patentable and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2, 4, 10-12, 14-16, and 18-21 respectively depend from one of the independent claims and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any fee (except the issue fee) including fees for any required extension of time, to Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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